

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-34 are presently active in this case, Claims 1-17 having been canceled and Claims 18-34 having been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claim 14 was objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim and Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable by Chaco et al. (USP 5,822,544).

In light of the cancellation of Claims 1-17, the outstanding grounds for objection and rejection are believed to be moot. New Claims 18-34 have been drafted to clarify the claimed invention, and thereby more clearly patentably define over the cited references. Support for the new claims is found in the specification, at page 20, lines 7-24 and page 22, line 13 to page 23, line 8, for example. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, Claim 18 recites a system connected to at least one medical equipment and configured to manage various works, each of which is performed by using the at least one medical equipment and relates to one patient or one medical examination. The system comprises "a generate unit configured to generate a stream list which includes a plurality of stream information defining a flow of work processes performed in one work" and "a display unit which displays the stream list so as to share information of the medical examination."

Similarly, Claim 24 recites a system comprising a host computer and at least one medical equipment and configured to manage various works, each of which is performed by using the at least one medical equipment and relates to one patient or one medical examination. The host computer comprises "a generate unit configured to generate a stream

list which includes a plurality of stream information defining a flow of work processes performed in one work" and "a first transmit unit which transmits the updated stream list to the at least one medical equipment via a network." The at least one medical equipment comprises "a receive unit configured to receive the updated stream list from the host computer" and "a display unit which displays the updated stream list so as to share information of the medical examination."

Claim 29 recites a method of managing various works, each of which is performed by using at least one medical equipment and relates to one patient or one medical examination. The method includes functionality above noted in Claims 18 and 34, and thus comprises "generating a stream list which includes a plurality of stream information defining a flow of work processes performed in one work" and "displaying the stream list on a display unit of the at least one medical equipment."

Thus, according to the claimed invention, in the case where a plurality of patients is examined by using at least one medical equipment (for example, an X-ray computed tomographic imaging apparatus or the like), it is possible to execute a centralized management of "various works performed by using the at least one medical equipment" by using the stream list and to share information for the management. As a result, in a global medical system using not only a single medical equipment but also a plurality of equipments, it is possible to effectively and appropriately manage medical works.

Chaco et al. discloses a system that facilitates the audio, visual and data communication between medical staff including nurses and between medical staff and patients in a remote situation. The Chaco et al. system provided, for example, in a nurse station does not execute a centralized management of "various works performed by using the at least one medical equipment" by using a stream list, or share information for the

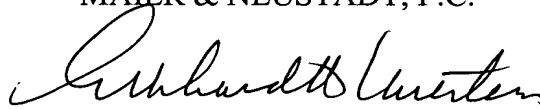
managements. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Chaco et al. does not anticipate or obviate the claimed invention.

On the contrary, as sated above, the claimed invention executes a centralized management of "various works performed by using the at least one medical equipment" by using the stream list, and shares information for the managements. Therefore, the present invention and Chaco et al. are clearly different in terms of their structures, objects and advantages.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above comments, the newly submitted claims are believed to be patentably distinguishing over the cited prior art and in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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